gramme content and formats are constantly reviewed and changes made so as to sustain viewers' interest.

Merger of foreign branches of nationalised banks

1086. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal is under consideration of Government for the amalgamation of foreign branches of Indian Nationalised Banks by the creation of a single bank to handle all foreign operations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilisation of PL-480 funds

1087. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact than an agreement has been signed with the United States Government regarding utilisation of funds presently held in deposits with Indian Banks arising out of PL-480 funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) An agreement was signed between India and USA on 7th Jan, 1987 for the setting up of a US-India Rupee Fund for Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation. The initial capital of this Fund is approximately Rs. 127.5 crores. This amount has been provided from the interest bearing rupee holdings of the US Government presently with certain US Commercial Banks in India. The life of the Fund is 10 years. During this period the entire Fund is expected to be committed for mutually agreed collaborative activities between two Governments.

Resource mobilisation through public deposits by government undertakings

1088. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the present trend of government owned companies mobilising public deposits in big way which is effecting the growth of deposits in nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Reserve Bank of India to increase public deposits in the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raids conducted on the premises of senior government officials

1089. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of senior Government officials whose premises were raided during last year on account of possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) the number of persons against whom cases were registered; and

(c) the value of goods seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) During the period 1.1.1986 to 31.10.1986 the Income Tax Department conducted searches at the